

Cummins' Postage Stamp Perforator

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The reprint of Dave Stump's letter (*The Perfin Bulletin*, November/December, pp. 221-23) about perfin machines requested more details about these devices. There is a photocopy of page 38D of the 1909 BF Cummins Perforator Catalog on the next page. As you can see from the catalog, the Model 51 was the same as the Model 50, but it had two dies instead of one in the perforating head.

This made the Model 51 very similar to the Model 27. The major difference among the three models was in the perforating die itself rather than in the perforating machine itself. If you compare the illustration with the Model 52 reported by Ivan A. Pfalser's, "Perfin Find", *The Perfins Bulletin*, October 1994, p. 1., you will note some minor differences in construction, most notably the shape of the operating lever.

I had sent two photocopied books to Marvin Mech about the Cummins machines. One was entitled, *Catalog + The B F Cummins Co. Perforating Machines: Chicago, New York*, (the words were perforated into the cover and back jacket of the original.) The other book was entitled, *The "Whole" Story of American Bank Checks* by Lester A. Pratt. When I toured the Cummins Chicago Plant with the Ratzers, company officials graciously gave me a copy of the 1909 catalog.

Cummins' Postage Stamp Perforator

No. 50 (One die) and No. 51 (Two dies)

Under the Postmaster General's ruling, dated May 4, 1908, it is lawful to perforate U. S. Postage Stamps with letters, numerals or other marks or devices, for identification purposes. This has been found the only effective method of preventing the stealing of stamps by office boys, mailing clerks, etc.



No. 50.



This machine has only one die, but cuts a thickness of 4 sheets,-- 4 stamps per stroke. By folding into the throat, entire sheets may be perforated without tearing apart.

PRICE, 3 or less initials, \$12.00. Additional initials, 75c each. Limited to 6 initials.

No. 51.

Perforates 8 stamps at each stroke (two dies, cutting thickness of 4 sheets.) Entire sheets may be perforated without tearing apart.

PRICE, 3 or less initials, \$16.50. Additional initials, \$1.50 each, (75c per letter each die.) Limited to 6 initials.



THE PERFORATIONS MADE BY THIS MACHINE CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT: i.e., HOLES NOT OVER 1/16 INCH IN DIAMETER, TOTAL SPACE NOT OVER 1/2 INCH SQUARE.

SPECIFICATIONS (Same for both)-- Weight, net 5 lbs., boxed 6 lbs. Base 7 x 3 inches. Height, 5 inches. Length of handle, 6 inches. Finished in black enamel.

38 D